

Recently Reported Problem with Valiant PhD (11/02)

DIS recently become aware of a problem involving 3-spill size capsules of Valiant PhD, a popular brand of amalgam commonly used in federal dental facilities. Clinicians reported that the plastic pillow pack used to hold mercury in the capsules was separating during trituration and being incorporated into the mixed amalgam mass. Pieces of the pillow pack imbedded in the amalgam were being found during condensation or carving. If not removed, it is conceivable that the physical properties of the amalgam could be adversely affected and the lifespan of the restoration shortened. The manufacturer, Ivoclar Vivadent, reported to DIS that the problem was caused by the manufacturing process used to make the pillows. The process was changed in February 2002, and Ivoclar Vivadent believes that this will prevent a future recurrence. The problem with the pillow packs appears to be localized, however the specific involved lots have not been identified. DIS does know, however, that lots that contain a "D" annotation have a greater chance of causing the problem because they were made with the die-cut machine prior to its being retooled. Ivoclar Vivadent reported that lot numbers containing an "E" annotation have been made with the ultrasonic process and should not present a problem. If you have questions and/or want to report a problem, you should contact Donna Hartnett or Andy Gulati at Ivoclar Vivadent by calling (800) 533-6825 or (716) 691-0010.

